

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SUVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2942

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR PLO LE IS SY
SUBJ: PLO FIVE-POINT STATEMENT

REF: (A) USUN 2126, (B) BEIRUT 2919 (NOTAL)
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1. ACCORDING TO Wafa release here, the statement issued following meeting of PLO delegation with PM Hoss at his residence at Doha (not repeat not in Hoss' office in the Serail as reported ref B) was not repeat not a GOL-PLO agreement but simply a declaration by the PLO. Point 5 of both versions also says that more negotiations will be needed before an actual agreement is arrived

AT. WE NOTE THE TWO VERSIONS DIFFER ON THE TEXT OF POINT THREE PERTAINING TO PALESTINIAN ARMED PRESENCE IN SOUTH LEBANON. REF (A) VERSION FROM AMB. TUENI SAYS "PLO ASSURES THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT OF ITS DESIRE TO PUT AN END TO ALL ARMED PRESENCE IN THE SOUTH SO AS TO ASSIST THE LEGITIMATE AUTHORITIES IN PERFORMING THEIR DUTIES AND RESTORING THEIR SOVEREIGNTY." ENGLISH LANGUAGE VERSION ISSUED BY PLO HERE SAYS: "THE PLO CONFIRMED ITS INTENTION TO ELIMINATE ALL ARMED MANIFESTATIONS IN THE SOUTH..." REGARDLESS OF WHICH VERSION IS DEFINITIVE, HOWEVER, THE WORDING OF BOTH LEAVES LARGE LOOPHOLES THAT WILL ENABLE PLO TO DELAY ALMOST INDEFINITELY THE WITHDRAWAL OF ITS ARMED UNITS FROM SOUTH LEBANON SHOULD IT CHOOSE TO DO SO.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF ON MAY 27, PRO-SYRIAN BAATH LEADER ASIM QANSUH SAID SYRIANS IN SYRIAN/PALESTINE COORDINATING COMMITTEE IN DAMASCUS HAD PROPOSED CRITERIA FOR REGULATING PALESTINE/LEBANESE RELATIONS. PALESTINIANS HAD ACCEPTED THEM AND USED THEM IN DISCUSSIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER AL HOSS AS BASIS FOR DEFINING MEANING OF "ELIMINATION OF ALL ARMED MANIFESTATIONS". THIS IS APPARENTLY DOCUMENT TUENI WAS REFERRING TO IN PARA 4, REF A. HOWEVER, AS REPORTED BY QANSUH, CRITERIA DIFFER IN SOME VERY IMPORTANT ASPECTS FROM THOSE REPORTED PARA 3, REF (A).

--ACCORDING TO QANSUH, PALESTINIANS DID NOT REPEAT NOT AGREE TO WITHDRAW FIGHTERS FROM SOUTH LEBANON, ALTHOUGH THEY DID AGREE TO REGROUP THEM IN CAMPS IN SOUTH LEBANON.
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--THERE WERE DIFFERENCES WITHIN PALESTINIANS OVER MEANING OF "PALESTINIAN ARMY". (REF A, PARA 4C5)). FATAH WANTED UNIFIED COMMAND UNDER SOLE CONTROL OF YASSAR ARAFAT. REJECTION FRONT AND PDFLP HAD REJECTED THIS OUT-OF-HAND, AND SAID THAT MOST THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT WAS A COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS COMPOSED OF THE LEADERS OF THE VARIOUS PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS.

3. QANSUH MADE NO REFERENCE TO ANY AGREEMENT BY PALESTINIANS TO RESTORE "CIVILIAN" CHARACTER TO THE PALESTINIAN PRESENCE (REF A, PARA 4(1)). QANSUH ALSO SAID THE PALESTINIANS HAD INDICATED THEY MIGHT BE WILLING TO LEAVE DAMOUR IF THEY WERE ALLOWED TO RESETTLE ALONG COAST ROAD SOUTH OF SIDON. THEY WOULD NOT AGREE TO RELOCATE IN BISSARIYAH, HOWEVER.

4. QANSUH NOTED THAT SO FAR PALESTINIAN "AGREEMENT" AMOUNTED TO ONLY WORDS. HE SAID PLO WOULD MAKE NO REAL DECISIONS ON RELATIONS WITH LEBANON UNTIL NEXT MEETING OF PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL, WHICH QANSUH BELIEVED WOULD MEET NEXT MONTH, PROBABLY IN ALGERIA. HE SAID KEY INDICATOR OF WHETHER PALESTINIANS HAD ANY INTENTION OF IMPLEMENTING AGREEMENT WOULD BE WITHDRAWAL OF IRAQI VOLUN-

TEERS FROM SOUTH LEBANON.

5. PHALANGE PARTY POLITICAL BUREAU MEMBER KARIM PAKRADOUNI ALSO SAYS THAT ALL THE VARIOUS POINTS MENTIONED BY TUENI (PARA 4, REF A) ARE IDEAS BEING FLOATED INFORMALLY BY THE PLO IN A VARIETY OF JOURNALISTIC AND OTHER CHANNELS, FOR IMPLEMENTATION AFTER JUNE 13. PURPOSE OF PLO INITIATIVE AT THIS TIME, PAKRADOUNI IS CONVINCED, IS TO CREATE ATMOSPHERE OF OPTIMISM THAT WILL FACILITATE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. HE BELIEVES PLO IS NOT CONCEDING ANYTHING THEY ALREADY HAVE UNDER THE 1969 CAIRO AGREEMENTS BUT ARE PREPARING A FUNDAMENTAL EXPANSION OF THEIR ROLE (AS AN "ALLIED ARMY") IN LEBANON IN PLACE OF IT.

6. COMMENT: WE NOTE FROM RECENT USUN REPORTING (USUN 2157 AND CONFIDENTIAL

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USUN 2144) THAT UNNY SEEMS TO BE OPERATING ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE PALESTINIANS HAVE MADE A FIRM COMMITMENT TO WITHDRAW ALL REPEAT ALL OF THEIR ARMED MEN FROM SOUTH LEBANON, PRESUMABLY FOLLOWING ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. IN OUR VIEW, PLO HAS NOT MADE SUCH A COMMITMENT AND WILL NOT DO SO. FOREIGN MINISTER BUTROS TOLD CHARGE MAY 26 THAT HE WAS EXTREMELY SKEPTICAL THAT PALESTINIANS WOULD, IN FACT, WITHDRAW AND MOST POLITICAL OBSERVERS HERE SHARE HIS VIEW. THE PALESTINIAN RECORD OF COMPLIANCE WITH EARLIER PROMISES TO HONOR LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY DOES NOT GIVE ONE MUCH CAUSE FOR OPTIMISM.
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